italics, while synonyms are presented as separate entries with superscripted numbers indicating distinct meaning.

Scholars and students of Swahili literature and linguistics will find this dictionary a valuable treasure of data and information. Browsing through the text reveals unique entries derived from dialects, slang, poetic language, Arabic and English coinages, as well as archaic Swahili forms. Several examples will offer a glimpse of the scope of literary Swahili represented in this dictionary. Lexicon from northern (Kiamu, Kisiu, Kigunya) and southern (Kimvita) Swahili dialects is evident throughout the dictionary. For instance, northern dialects generally realizes SS "*j*" as "*y*" resulting in entries such as *yani* for *jani*, leaf; *yembe* for *jembe*, hoe; and *yiwe* for *jiwe,* stone. Kimvita dialect, on the other hand, realizes SS "j" as a voiced dental stop "*d*" after "*n*", while "*ch*" is realized as voiceless dental stop "t". As a result, dialectal variants such as *ndaa* for *njaa,* hunger; *ndoo* for *njoo,* come; *-tukua* for *-chukua,* take; *tungu* for *chungu,* bitter; are abundant in the dictionary. Further evidence of entries from regional dialects of Swahili are discernible lexical variants such as northern *jepa* for *iba,* steal; *taba* for *igiza,* imitate; *ishe* for *baba*, father; and *inya* for *mama*, mother.

Additionally, DLS offers a window into archaic grammatical forms and vocabulary such as suffixes denoting the past perfect tense *-ile (pasile,* he passed; *shishile*, have taken hold of); *-ma-* or *maa (kima,* finish, end); plus the continuative *-nga* suffix (*eonga*, swing to and fro). Less commonly known Bantu and Arabic numerals such as *-mwe*, one; *-ine*, four; and *zikwimia*, one million; *arobatashara,* fourteen, are also included.

DLS users will find many uncommon words used in literary Swahili that bear familiar meaning: *mwekawatu*, employer*; dvufoa*, saliva; *asfari*, yellow; *ahii*, my brother; *domgopachi*, mortar, *Mrata,* Kikuyu person; *Mlanjiri,* Somali, *magabachoro*, bourgeoisie; *mvyazi,* parent, to name several. Further, many words derived from Arabic and English clearly indicate the dictionary straddles the classical and modern periods of Swahili literature. Admittedly, texts with abundant Arabic derivations are plentiful considering Swahili's literary history and influences. However, the case of overly liberal inclusion of English coinages for common Swahili words is intriguing. Consider for instance, *-sinilafu*), don't laugh at me; *-rilivu,* relieve; *-rikomendiwa*, to be recommended; *eapoti*, airport; *andawea*, underwear, *alikoholia,* alcohol, etc.

Regarding some very unusual entries, DLS user should appreciate the complexities of traditional Swahili poetry that demand an adherence to a stringent rhyming scheme. Simply put, a poet is at liberty to lengthen or truncate words, and even to alter the word-final syllables in order to achieve the intended prosody and rhyme scheme. One can, therefore, rightly assume that the many unusual entries such as *Munga* for *Mungu*, God; *Tuma* for *mtume,* Prophet Mohammed; *mfisha* for *Mfichaji*, one who habitually conceals; *ndu* for *ndugu*, brother; are products of such creative enterprise.

Despite the guidance offered in the introduction noting that "less correct word forms with the same meaning," are denoted by the word "also" at the end of the entry, users will find entries such as *hasibu/hesabu; mbawaa/mbawara; hawaa/hawara,* and others confusing given that are considered both correct and "less correct." Likewise, users will find the numerous cases of words with alternate spellings somewhat disconcerting: *ilhali/ilihali/hali; baada/baadahu/Baadu,* afterwards; *elfu/elfia/elefu*, a thousand.

Finally, in addition to the various shortcomings noted above, a subtitle would help add clarity to a title that may be considered, and rightfully so, ambitious and open to conjecture. Moreover, a definition of the broadly encompassing term "literary Swahili," plus a listing of sources of words would have enhanced the value to this book. Knappert's extensive sources and collection of Swahili literature should have been the first place, for the editors, to dig for such information. A revision of errors and inconsistencies noted above warrant serious consideration. Regrettably, the dictionary may be out of reach to most users in Eastern Africa on account of its hefty price. However, a digital version of the dictionary, if considered, might mitigate that concern.

The shortcomings notwithstanding, DLS is a very valuable addition to Swahili language, literature, and linguistics. It reinforces a growing body of research that seeks to transcend those curricular boundaries that delimit Swahili studies to the standardization process and developments thereafter. DLS boldly acknowledges the ingenuity and agency of nonstandard varieties in shaping the growth of Swahili language and literature. In so doing, Knappert and Van Kessel make an essential part of Swahili's literary history accessible to a much broader audience.

Mungai Mutonya

Knoll, Arthur J., and **Hermann J. Hiery** (eds.): The German Colonial Experience. Select Documents on German Rule in Africa, China, and the Pacific 1884–1914. Lanham: University Press of America, 2010. 544 pp. ISBN 978-0-7618-3900-2. Price: £ 37.95

This work deals with the era of German colonialism. Knoll is a retired professor of history at the University of the South in the United States and Hiery is professor of modern history at the German University of Bayreuth. The book consists of 522 documents from various sources worldwide, many of which have been translated into English, and which describe German imperialism from a variety of standpoints. The introduction includes a brief overview of the research done in this field, and is followed by 17 chapters dealing with precolonial history, the acquisition of the colonies, charter companies, the colonial military and police, administration, biographies, law, labor, economy, infrastructure, the sciences, ecology, religion, education, self-government, the role of women, and race relations. Three additional document sections provide a view of the colonized, give brief reactions by the indigenous peoples to colonial hegemony and give academic assessments of German colonialism. The documents are grouped geographically into the following categories: western Africa (Togo and Cameroon), Southwest Africa, Eastern Africa, the Pacific (New Guinea, Micronesia, Sa-

moa), and China (Kiaochow, a territory which was leased to the German navy). Explanations of the background, which precede all chapters and numerous documents, improve the reader's understanding of the historical context. The volume ends with a list of the sources.

The documents make clear that German colonialism proceeded in a manifold and often contradictory way. The officers involved had widely differing approaches – from Carl Peters in eastern Africa, a colonial enthusiast who was later fired from his post due to his brutality, to colonial officials like Wilhelm Solf and Georg Fritz in Samoa and Micronesia who were able to make German settlers observe the norms of tolerance and preservation of indigenous traditions, not least due to the isolated location and communication difficulties. Germany under the Kaiser made its entrance onto the world's stage as a colonial power in 1884, which was relatively late; control of foreign territories was at that time the *sine qua non* for a global power. Even more, colonialism was a way for countries to obtain raw materials beyond what was available at home and to create new markets for their own goods. Nevertheless, at first Imperial Chancellor Bismarck's colonial policies were restrained; he preferred to focus on European priorities. In the beginning, Bismarck passed on the costs of colonial expansion, which are estimated to have been a total of two billion marks for a 30-year period, to the companies that benefited from that expansion. The project finally failed due to their undercapitalization and due to profit-maximizing policies. Accordingly, the two editors distinguish between a period of occupation and pacification (1884–1907) and a phase of rational colonialism from 1907 (creation of an Imperial Colonial Office within the Foreign Office and more expansion-oriented policies) until 1914, which marked the early end of Germany's colonial aspirations.

The "place in the sun," said State Secretary for Foreign Affairs von Bülow of the acquisition of Kiaochow, China, in 1897, was not worth the cost. Enormous infrastructure expenses, high risks, hesitant investors, bad weather conditions, falling prices for raw materials, and not least of all the general unwillingness of the colonial subjects to submit to forced labor on the plantations were all factors that would prevent prosperity in this endeavor. Labor needs proved to be the Achilles heel of German colonialism; the large numbers of settlers expected to emigrate from the motherland never arrived. In 1913 there were 20,140 adult settlers in all the colonies, of which three-quarters were men. Even in the settlement colony of southwest Africa, in 1912 settlers made up only 12% of the population. In this context the Christian missionaries played an important role, and operated most of the elementary and secondary schools. They were responsible for teaching such German virtues as hard work, cleanliness, submission to authority, discipline, and respect, in order to create obedient and willing laborers for the industrial age. The means were described by a missionary in 1905: "Only through compulsion and coercion – naturally within limits – can a person acquire culture" (425). On the other hand, missionaries also served as critics and opponents of unrestrained exploitation and bad labor conditions. All in all, the editors see the influence of religion as having been relatively negligible, as the traditional religions in the colonies have been maintained up until the present.

The source texts show a surprisingly strong debate on colonialism among the representatives in the Reichstag, some of whom criticized the expansion of military activity into the colonies. It is also remarkable that the colonial subjects were strong enough to question their own subjection. An example is that the Duala in Cameroon, after having been driven from their lands, not only sent a petition to the Reichstag but hired an attorney to defend their interests. Educated members of the Lome people appealed to the Colonial Secretary. The Samoans also argued against the reasons for their status as subjects in the colonial hierarchy. While humane treatment was more common in the distant and sparsely populated South Sea territories, the laborers of Africa were exposed to attacks and abuse, as well as exploitation and miserable labor conditions. On the plantations of Cameroon, up to 75% of the laborers died. Budding resistance movements and armed revolts were brutally suppressed. Years of war, destruction, and famine led to approximately 250,000 to 300,000 deaths in eastern Africa. Of 80,000 West African Hereros who participated in revolt, fewer than 20,000 survived, and whole peoples and regions were traumatized.

The goal of this book – to publish important documents related to German colonialism in all their variety and regional differences in order to make them available to a broad, non-German-speaking audience – is certainly worthwhile. Nevertheless, in the conclusions there is not enough empathy for the victims. The destruction of indigenous identities and cultures is largely ignored; the word "genocide" never appears. Rather, a leading British historian states that it would not be inappropriate to say "that the German colonial administration was earning the respect and admiration, if not the love, of the African people subjected to it" (505). The notion that colonialism ushered Africa into the modern age is more than questionable, in view of the fact that the continent continues to be exploited by industrial powers both old and new. As early as 1880 the liberal politician Ludwig Bamberger described the almost three-hundred-year history of European colonialism as being a road strewn with blood, rubble, and victims. The subjection of foreign peoples and plundering of their lands was not a "shadow side of economic modernity" (xii), but was the goal, in and of itself, of imperialism. The editors' use of the word "governance" to refer to administration also seems to ignore these realities, as governance mainly describes methods of running a nation that are prevalent in the 21st century. In addition, some of the dates given for the administration of Colonial Secretary Dernburg are incorrect (ix, 111, 173). However, we agree with the hope of the editors that this volume, especially its interdisciplinary approach, will provide the motivation for additional historical research.

Roland Seib